

*Library*

# LIBRARY SERVICE TO LABOR

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## NEWS OF COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The proposed budget for the Joint Committee on Library Service to Labor Groups was approved by AIA at budget meetings this fall. For the current fiscal year, September 1957 to August 1958, we have been allocated \$164.00 for four issues of the Newsletter, \$75.00 for the labor-library project, and \$150.00 for revision of the Guide for Developing Library Service to Trade Unions.

The Midwinter business meeting of the Committee will be held on Friday, January 31, at the Edgewater Beach Hotel in Chicago. There will be a morning meeting starting at 10 AM, followed by a luncheon lasting until 3 PM.

We extend a hearty welcome to the new members of the Committee, whose terms began in September. They are:

Julius F. Rothman, Community Services Activities, AFL-CIO. (Newly appointed by AFL-CIO President George Meany, at the request of the Joint Committee)  
Irene Peterson, Chief, Social Sciences and Business Department, The Chicago Public Library  
Joseph Klimberger, Chief, Social Science Division

A complete list of committee members appears on page 9.

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## 75 YEARS OF AMERICAN LABOR -- DETROIT PUBLIC LIBRARY EXHIBITION

The Labor Exhibition of the Detroit Public Library comprised seventeen exhibition cases on the second and third floors of the Main Library, in addition to an introductory case in the Lobby. It was on display from the last week of August through the middle of October. Its theme was: 75 YEARS OF AMERICAN LABOR.

As with all our exhibitions the Labor exhibition resulted from the skills, knowledge and hard work of many persons and several departments. The plan of its organization and choice of materials came from the Social Sciences department, which has what is considered to be one of the finest labor collections in the country. The posters were designed and the materials arranged in the cases by the Chief of the Publications and Exhibits department, Miss Catharine Haughey. The brochure was compiled jointly by her and the Social Sciences department and produced in our Printing department. Finally, our Press Relations office took over the publicity.

Approval of my request for a building-wide exhibition in recognition of Labor Day 1957 was given in February by the Director, Mr. Ralph A. Ulveling, but little work was undertaken until early summer. Mrs. Roberta McBride returned to our staff in May and her experience in the labor field, gained both in the Research Department of the UAW-CIO and formerly in this Department, was straightway enlisted. Mrs. McBride roughly estimates the time she herself spent on the exhibition as fifteen hours a week for ten weeks. She gives this sequence of her planning: selecting a central plan of organization; extensive reading on each tentatively selected event or case theme; rough drafting of an outline and explanatory labels for each case; selecting materials to illustrate themes and events; and finally, recasting the arrangement and labels to fit the materials. She adds that only because this Library has such a vast collection was this sequence possible; otherwise, the exhibition would needs be fitted to the available materials.

The themes of the Exhibition were:

Case 1. Chart showing the Growth of Union Membership in the United States.

Case 2. The Noble and Holy Order of Knights of Labor, 1869-1893.

Case 3. Left-Wing Unionism: American Railway Union, 1893-1894; Industrial Workers of the World, 1905- .

Case 4. American Federation of Labor, 1866-1955.

Case 5. From AFL vs CIO to AFL-CIO.

Case 6 & 7. Some individual Unions: International Garment Workers Union, AFL-CIO; United Mine Workers of America; International Typographical Union, AFL-CIO; International Union, United Automobile, Aircraft, & Agricultural Implement Workers of America, AFL-CIO; United Steelworkers of America, AFL-CIO; Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, AFL-CIO.

Case 8. Development of Trade Unionism in Detroit and Michigan.

Case 9. Detroit, Home of Five International Unions: International Union, United Automobile, Aircraft, & Agricultural Implement Workers of America; Mechanics Educational Society of America; Foreman's Association of America; International Union, United Plant Guard Workers of America; Brotherhood of Maintenance of Way Employees.

Case 10. The Labor Press (Local and National).

Cases 11 through 17 were given over to Labor's Goals, as follows:

Case 11. Higher Pay, More Fringe Benefits, Greater Security.

Case 12. Shorter Hours of Work.

Case 13. Favorable Legislative Climate.

Case 14. Equality of Opportunity.

Case 15. Protect Labor Through Use of the Union Label.

Case 16. Organize the Unorganized.

Case 17. Eliminate Communism at Home and Abroad; Eliminate Corruption; Co-operate in Solving Social Problems.

Approximately 350 publications were used, including books, pamphlets, and journals. Bibliographic labels were prepared for each publication, except those opened to the title-page for display. Dates of publication ranged from early nineteenth century to the second half of the twentieth. A roll of microfilm represented our large collection of labor films.

In addition to the main exhibition poster used in each case and reproduced on the cover of the brochure, posters were made for each case theme and its subdivision. Eighty statements--explanatory, descriptive or narrative--were processed for display on a bulletin typewriter and included such items as a quotation from Samuel Gompers, excerpts from the Knights of Labor constitution of 1879, from the Preamble of the Constitution of the AFL, 1886, biographical sketches of T.V. Powderly, Jo Labadie and other labor leaders, and brief histories of such international unions as the Western Federation of Miners.

Several large charts were prepared for the cases. One showed the growth of union membership in the United States--AFL, Independent, CIO--from the emergence of the four Railroad Brotherhoods, 1863-1883, to the AFL-CIO merger in 1955. Another large chart gave percentages of the work force, organized and unorganized, by all types of industry and was shown in Case 16 with the constitutions of several unions in highly organized industries and those with great membership potential. Introducing the series, Labor's Goals, was a large chart on which were posted successive UAW contracts illustrating the benefits one union has won for its members: 1937, right to belong to a union; 1941, union shop; 1948, cost-of-living escalator; annual improvement factor; 1949, pensions; 1950, family health insurance; 1955, guaranteed annual wage.

Photostatic enlargements of pictures were used: an 1886 photograph of the founders of the Knights of Labor and the vacant chair for Uriah Smith Stephens in the center foreground; Bell Time, showing the workers pouring out of the Lawrence mills at the end of a thirteen hour day; the Homestead riot; the sit-down strike of the Auto-workers at Flint; a Labor day procession in New York passing up Fifth Avenue.

The case devoted to the Labor Press was one of the most successful. Many current issues were displayed in an attempt to represent the 800 odd labor publications. Tribute was also paid here to the several journals which were recipients of the awards granted by the University of Wisconsin School of Journalism, and presented at the AFL-CIO convention in December 1955.

The publicity on the exhibition was most satisfying. Miss Haughey and Mrs. McBride were invited to appear on Guy Nunn's Sunday afternoon Telescope on CKLW-TV. Spot announcements were made by local radio stations. Our bookmobile which takes part each year in the Labor day parade was decorated with a banner announcing the exhibition.

Total newspaper publicity which came to our attention amounted to about 170 column inches and eight pictures. The Detroit Free Press carried an article by its labor writer of 37 column inches with full-page headlines and picture; the Detroit Times, a story and picture; the Detroit News, a brief article. Labor's Daily and the AFL-CIO News were two national labor papers which ran full stories with pictures. The Michigan CIO News carried a front page picture and story and later another story and picture tied in with our Library Local 1259. Other local labor papers which gave good space to the exhibition were the Detroit Building Tradesman, The Detroit Teacher, and the Wage Earner. A letter from Oregon telling of a story in a local labor paper indicates other publicity which has not yet been brought to our attention.

Union cooperation was good. Mr. Al Ruthenberg, business manager for a number of locals in Council 77 of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees including the Library Local 1259, brought a delegation of Detroit labor officials to view the exhibition. Their picture with Mr. Ulveling was run in the Detroit Times and several labor papers. A Wayne State University professor, who is engaged in research for the Detroit and Wayne County Federation of Labor, reported their executives' pride in the exhibition; it was discussed with enthusiasm at their September meeting.

This all too factual account does not indicate the total effect gained from following the cases in sequence. Here was a running narrative of labor's history in its broad sweep made vivid and even dramatic. Also, we concluded from various comments that we had accomplished our objective--to convey to the public a graphic representation of the breadth and richness of this Library's labor collection.

Helene Thorpe, Chief  
Department of Social Sciences  
Detroit Public Library



## THE COOK IN THE LIBRARY

At the suggestion of Frederick B. Sweet, Managing Editor of the Catering Industry Employee, the Cincinnati Public Library prepared a September exhibit showing "ordinary people on the job", through photographs. A report on this by Mrs. E. R. Cameron of the library appears below.

In addition to instigating this exhibit, Mr. Sweet used one of the pictures -- of a member of his union -- on the cover of the September issue of the Catering Industry Employee, and ran a brief story, under the title "The Cook in the Library," describing the display and the use of the pictures by the Cincinnati Enquirer on the day before Labor Day. In the same issue, Mr. Sweet ran Tom Cosgrove's article, "Let Your Library Help You," and a brief description of the Detroit Public Library's Exhibition.

As a follow-up Mr. Sweet sent copies of the September Catering Industry Employee with covering letters to about three hundred libraries in cities where there are locals of the Hotel & Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union. The letter called attention to the articles on libraries and offered a free subscription to the magazine and a free copy of the Union's history, Union House, Union Bar, by Matthew Josephson. Within three weeks he had received 34 replies from librarians requesting that they be placed on the mailing list to receive the magazine, and most of them also asked for a copy of the book. He reports also that "Many have commented gratefully on our suggestion of closer labor-library cooperation."

## YOUR NEIGHBOR ON THE JOB -- CINCINNATI PUBLIC LIBRARY DISPLAY

Last spring in a large middle western city, labor, library and newspaper planned a display to honor the seventy-fifth anniversary of Labor Day. The subject: workers in representative labor unions, photographed informally on their jobs; the purpose: to present organized labor through a picture story shown in a public library and published in a local newspaper.

The suggestion for the project came from Frederick Sweet, editor of the Catering Industry Employee, monthly magazine of the Hotel and Restaurant Employees and Bartenders International Union. The library was the Public Library of Cincinnati and Hamilton County, housed in a modern building with handsome show windows on a busy street corner downtown. The paper cooperating with library and labor was the Cincinnati Enquirer, circulation 276,000. Its rotogravure editor agreed to carry on the Sunday before Labor Day the same pictures as those exhibited in library windows for the month of September.

During the summer the library assigned a talented young photographer to take pictures of men and women in their working gear. The list of a dozen jobs was chosen by library and newspaper from a longer list suggested by the labor editor. The dozen represented a cross-section of the city's economic life. Regional flavor was achieved by including a river pilot (Masters, Mates and Pilots) taking a tow up the river; a plater (Journeymen Horseshoers) caught shoeing a Kentucky

thoroughbred at River Downs; a Machinist in Cincinnati's world-famous machine tool industry.

By going out to photograph workers in twelve different occupations, by preparing short histories of unions which accompanied the display, the Library learned more about its community. Workers, on their side, were reminded that the Library had many resources and services which could be useful to them and their families.

The finished display, launched Labor Day week-end, demonstrated that graphic techniques could be used effectively to tell a simple human story. The opening panel carried the legend: "Your Neighbor on the Job -- workers in all trades find pleasure and profit in books from their Public Library." Twelve large photographic blow-ups followed, mounted on panels with bands of red, white and blue. Each gave the name of the union; each showed the point of contact between the worker and his job. Reverse of panels carried brief histories of the unions and photograms appropriate to each trade.

The success of the show was plain from the attention it attracted in library windows, and from new faces it brought into the library. Photographs taken from the display and the story of this cooperative project have appeared in a number of labor publications across the country.

From labor's point of view the experiment showed how a variety of unions could work with a library and a newspaper on a common project. For the library it was a new and rewarding venture in community relations.

E. R. Cameron  
Cincinnati Public Library

#### LABOR DAY EXHIBIT - MASSAPEQUA (N.Y.) PUBLIC LIBRARY

For the first attempt by the Massapequa Public Library to emphasize library service to labor, a Labor Day Exhibit was prepared. Miss Grace Larkin, librarian of the reference and young adult departments, reports that the exhibit included a display of pamphlets and books, the Labor Sunday Message, and the September 1957 issue of Holiday. A structure chart of the AFL-CIO was displayed and several AFL-CIO pamphlets were available in quantity for those who wished to take them. These latter materials and a list of books suggested for display were supplied by the AFL-CIO Education Department at Miss Larkin's request.

The library, which has a potential borrowing public of 45,000 population, considered the exhibit a success. More than two months after Labor Day, Miss Larkin reported: "The Labor Day exhibit held much interest for the library patrons, and the books are still circulating. We helped one patron better understand his new union board membership, and we referred several people to local labor organizations."

## THE SOUTH - SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC

This reading list, or works readily available in most libraries, relates to social and economic problems and potentials of the Southern-states area. Some of the works listed express views directly contrary to the trade union position and are included to stimulate thought on the question considered. The list was compiled, at the suggestion of the Joint Committee on Library Service to Labor Groups, by Elizabeth Edwards, Librarian, Chattanooga Public Library, for the AFL-CIO Southern Labor School Advanced Institute, August 11-16, 1957.

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...."The South is changing rapidly. He who writes about it runs the risk that change will occur before the presses stop ...."

--Preface to SOUTHERN POLITICS by V.O. Key. Knopf, 1950.p.ix.

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### ECONOMIC RESOURCES AND INFORMATION

Georgia University, Bureau of Business Research. SOUTHEASTERN RESOURCES HANDBOOK, A Statistical and Research Service. U. of Ga. Press, Athens, Ga.  
Manufacturers Record. BLUE BOOK OF SOUTHERN PROGRESS AND THE SOUTHERN INDUSTRIAL DIRECTORY. Published annually as a supplement to the magazine. Contains valuable statistical information about each state.  
Hoover, Calvin P. ECONOMIC RESOURCES AND POLICIES OF THE SOUTH. Macmillan, 1951. Physical, human and financial resources.

### POLITICS OF THE SOUTH

Heard, Alexander. TWO-PARTY SOUTH. U. of N.C. Press, 1952. \$4.75  
A complement to the V.O. Key book.  
Key, Vladimir O. SOUTHERN POLITICS IN STATE AND NATION. Knopf, 1950.  
The author examines, state by state, the extraordinary diversity in the one-party system, the phenomenon of the Dixiecrats, the conduct of election ... and the influence of the so-called "Solid South" in Congress.  
Michie, Allan A. DIXIE DEMAGOGUES. Vanguard Press, 1939. While much of this can be classed as history of a past era, it is interesting reading and gives a background for the understanding of our present.

### THE T V A -- PEOPLE, WATER, POWER

Billings, Henry. ALL DOWN THE VALLEY. Viking Press, 1952.  
A book about water and people -- the whole valley of the Tennessee--40,000 square miles involving seven states.  
Clapp, Gordon R. THE TVA, An Approach to the Development of a Region. U. of Chicago Press, 1955. A twenty-year report on the TVA.  
"T'aint ignorance that does the damage;  
It's knowing so much that isn't so."  
This book can clarify much that is being said about the TVA "that isn't so".  
Duffus, R. L. THE VALLEY AND ITS PEOPLE. Knopf, 1944.  
An illustrated history of the TVA, its purposes, construction, and a description of the people who made it and benefited by the finished product.  
Lilienthal, David E. TVA, DEMOCRACY ON THE MARCH. Harper, 1944.  
Available in paper book. The TVA is so much more important than its physical accomplishments. The social and economic problems of the present day South cannot be understood without an understanding of the TVA. Lilienthal makes this march exciting.

Whitman, Willson. GOD'S VALLEY: People and Power along the Tennessee River. Viking, 1939. \$3.00.

... "Understanding of the valley people, their ways and their wiles, their heritage and most of all what the TVA has meant to them."

--N.Y. TIMES. April 9, 1939, p.5.

#### THE LABOR MOVEMENT IN THE SOUTH

Kelly, Richard. NINE LIVES FOR LABOR. Praeger, 1956.

The personal histories of nine out of the many thousands who live and die to make unions possible. Some of these nine lived in the South and worked in mills. Through their lives a story of the Textile Workers emerges. No statistics.

Tippett, Tom. WHEN SOUTHERN LABOR STIRS. Cape & Smith, 1931.

Stories of the strikes in 1929-30, in Elizabethton, Gastonia, Marion and Danville.

#### S E G R E G A T I O N

Ashmore, Harry S. THE NEGRO AND THE SCHOOLS. U. of N.C. Press, 1954.

An impartial book on the whole picture of bi-racial education in the U.S.

Rowan, Carl T. GO SOUTH TO SORROW. Random House, 1957.

A powerful book by a very able Negro journalist. He talks with both Negroes and white on his recent trip "South to sorrow".

Smith, Lillian Eugenia. KILLERS OF THE DREAM. W.W. Norton, 1949.

"Cites examples of the evils of segregation for both white and colored people."

... NOW IS THE TIME. Viking Press, 1955.

Segregation -- The Supreme Court -- and Democracy. Lillian Smith answers the twenty-five questions about segregation -- a book of urgency.

Warren, Robert Penn. SEGREGATION, THE INNER CONFLICT IN THE SOUTH. Random House, 1956.

A trip through the South, and talks with both whites and Negroes; short and interesting.

Woodward, C. Vann. THE STRANGE CAREER OF JIM CROW, A Brief Account of Segregation. Oxford University Press, 1955.

The author traces the development of segregation, emphasizing the political, economic and social conditions which combined to give rise to each phase.

From the Specific to the General: Some history, some serious sociological studies and a bit of humor. Each book contains much information for thought and discussion.

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Campbell, Marie. FOLKS DO GET BORN. Rinehart, 1946.

The lives and activities of the granny midwives in rural Georgia. There is inspiration as well as information here.

Cash, Wilbur Joseph. THE MIND OF THE SOUTH. Knopf, 1941. (Paper book, Doubleday, 1954)

He explains the rise and meaning of a whole civilization.

Dollard, John. CASTE AND CLASS IN A SOUTHERN TOWN. Yale Univ. Press, 1937.

Psychological study of the Negro in a small Southern town. First published in 1937; 3rd ed, 1949. Serious study that has become a classic.

Gilman, G.W. HUMAN RELATIONS IN THE INDUSTRIAL SOUTHEAST. U. of N.C. Press, 1956, \$5.

"Socio-psychological picture of the workers, the owners, their factories and their communities... So vivid and alive it reads like a novel."

D.K. Oko, Library Jnl.



HISTORY OF THE SOUTH in 10 vols. edited by Wendell Holmes Stephenson & E.Merton Coulter. Louisiana State University Press.

Vol. 9. ORIGINS OF THE NEW SOUTH, 1877-1913, by O. Vann Woodward. A most interesting social and economic history of this period; gives a background and understanding of the area.

Vol. 10. THE PRESENT SOUTH, 1913-1946 is still to be published.

Lent, H.P. MEN AT WORK IN THE SOUTH. Putnam, 1957. \$2.75.

A child's book telling of the many industries in the South, from shrimping to atomic energy.

Lumpkin, Katharine DuPre. THE MAKING OF A SOUTHERNER. Knopf, 1947.

"A highly personal approach to social issues." --KIRKUS

McKee, Elmore M. THE PEOPLE ACT, Stories of How Americans are Coming Together to Deal with Their Community Problems. Harper & Bros., 1955. Includes stories of several small communities in the South.

MacLachlan, J. M. THIS CHANGING SOUTH. Univ. of Fla. Press, 1956, \$4.50.

Study of population trends.

Polk, William T. SOUTHERN ACCENT: FROM UNCLE REMUS TO OAK RIDGE. Morrow, 1953.

Not sentimental, not debunking--sound information with much wit and humor.

Sitterson, J. C. SUGAR COUNTRY. Univ. of Ky. Press, 1953. \$6.00

The country and the industry from the 1700's to the present.

Vance, R.B. URBAN SOUTH. U. of N.C. Press, 1955. \$5.00

#### COMMITTEE MEMBERS 1957-58

Mrs. Dorothy Kuhn Oko, New York Public Library, Labor Education Service, 20 W. 53rd Street, New York 19, New York (1958)

Chairman

Mrs. Mary Backer, Branch #13, Pratt Free Library, Baltimore, Md. (1958) Secretary  
Paul Bartolini, Supervisor, Neighborhood Libraries, Public Library, Milwaukee, Wis. (1958)

John E. Cosgrove, Assistant Director, Department of Education,  
AFL-CIO, 815 16th Street, N.W., Washington 6, D.C. (AFL-CIO)

Thomas E. Cosgrove, Assistant Director of Education, Textile Workers Union of America, 99 University Place, New York 3, N.Y. (AFL-CIO)

Mrs. Helga Eason, Public Library, Miami, Florida (1958)

Edith Estabrooks, Free Public Library, New Brunswick, New Jersey, (1958)

Richard Kendzioriski, Education Staff, Michigan Industrial Union Council, 716 Lothrop Ave., Detroit 2, Mich. (AFL-CIO)

Joseph Klimberger, Chief, Social Science Division, Brooklyn Public Library, Grand Army Plaza, Brooklyn, New York (1959)

Carl J. Megel, President, American Federation of Teachers, 28 E. Jackson Blvd., Chicago 4, Illinois (AFL-CIO)

Joseph Mire, Inter-University Labor Education Committee, 1313 University Ave., Madison, Wis. (1958)

Orlie Pell, Publications and Research Associate, American Labor Education Service, Inc., 1776 Broadway, New York 19, N.Y. (1958)

Julius Rothman, Community Service Activities AFL-CIO, 9 East 40th Street, New York 16, N.Y.

Irene Peterson, Chief, Social Sciences and Business Department,  
The Chicago Public Library, Chicago 2, Illinois (1959)

Everett Sanders, Public Library, Kansas City, Missouri (1958)

Nell Scott, Public Library, Denver, Colorado (1948)

The opinions expressed in this Newsletter do not necessarily represent the policy or views of the Joint Committee on Library Service to Labor Groups of the American Library Association.

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